

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

1-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~claim 37~~claim 63, further comprising measuring a physiological indicator of islet neogenesis.

40. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~claim 37~~claim 63, further comprising measuring fasting blood glucose (FBG).

41. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~claim 37~~claim 63, further comprising decreasing insulin dependency.

42-62. (Cancelled)

63. (New) A method of treating hyperglycemia in a subject, comprising administering a gastrin compound comprising Z-Y_m-X-Tyr-Gly-Trp-Leu-Asp-Phe-NH₂; wherein

Z is human serum albumin;

Y is (Gly-Ala);

m is 0 or 5;

X is Gly-Pro-Trp-Leu-Glu-Glu-Glu-Glu-Ala; and there is a cysteine residue at the amino terminus of Y when m is 5, or at the amino terminus of X when m is 0; providing that the gastrin compound binds a gastrin/CCK_B receptor.

64. (New) A method according to claim 63 wherein m is 0.

65. (New) A method according to claim 63 wherein m is 5.